

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested. This paper is in response to the Office action mailed on March 21, 2006, in which the Applicant was required to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. A one-month extension of time accompanies this Amendment.

**I. Amendments to the Specification**

The specification has been amended to correct minor and inadvertent word-processing errors, punctuation errors, and grammatical inconsistencies.

Additionally, the specification has been amended to incorporate a section entitled, "Brief Description of the Figures", in reference to Figures 1-6 as originally-filed. Support for the figure descriptions is found in the figures themselves, and in Example 7, paragraphs 91-97.

Lastly, Examples 6a-6d have been amended to reflect the proper tense, i.e., past tense, since each of the subject conjugates was in fact synthesized, as is readily apparent from the data presented in Fig. 3. Textual correspondence for the abbreviations "SPA" and "OPSS", appearing in paragraphs [0061] and [0068], respectively, has been incorporated. Both abbreviations were well-known in the art at the time of filing, as evidenced by the enclosed pages from Shearwater Polymers, Inc. catalog, entitled, "Polyethylene Glycol Derivatives 1997-1998", pages 18 and 34.

Thus, no new matter is introduced into the present application as a result of the foregoing amendments to the specification.

**II. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 17-19, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 are currently amended. Claims 6, 10, 14, 15, and 16 are original. Claims 4, 20, 22, and 25 are canceled.

**III. Amendments to the Claims**

The claims have been amended to more particularly recite the features of the present invention.

No new matter has been added to the claims by virtue of the amendments presented herein.

**IV. Election of a Single Species**

The Examiner has requested the election of a single disclosed species to begin prosecution on the merits. In response to this request, the Applicant elects biphalin. This election is provided for initial search purposes only. It is the Applicant's understanding that should the Examiner fail to find prior art related to the single elected species (i.e., biphalin), then additional searches directed to additional species will be carried out until the Examiner arrives at an allowable generic claim.

Claims readable on the above species election include claims 1-3, 5-19, 21, 23, 26, and 27.

**V. Ongoing Prosecution of Related Applications**

The Examiner's attention is drawn to two related pending applications in the same patent family as the instant case, Application Nos. 10/354,879 and 10/354,683, assigned to Examiner Marcela M. Cordero Garcia.

**VI. Conclusion**

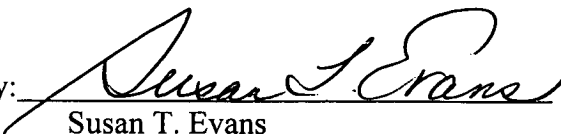
Commencement of prosecution on the merits in this case is thus respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (650) 493-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 22, 2006

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